

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 151401Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2074

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5090

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO, ASSISTANT SECRETARY (NEA)
ATHERTON AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY MC CLOSKEY (H)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (MATHIAS, CHARLES)
SUBJ: CODEL MATHIAS: WRITTEN QUESTIONS LEFT WITH EMBASSY

1. PRIOR TO DEPARTING EGYPT, CODEL MATHIAS LEFT WITH US SIX PAGES OF QUESTIONS WITH REQUEST THAT EMBASSY SEND WRITTEN, IN-DEPTH RESPONSE TO EACH. RESPONSES MIGHT BE AT CLASSIFIED LEVEL IF NECESSARY. WE UNDERSTND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WILL BE PART OF CODEL'S REPORT IN CONNECTION WITH FY 77 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE REQUEST. WE ARE TOLD CODEL'S REPORT WILL BE CLASSIFIED.
 2. QUESTIONS COVER MILITARY, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC TOPICS AS WELL AS US ASSISTANCE AND A SERIES OF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS. MANY QUESTIONS CAN READILY BE ANSWERED, ALTHOUGH DOING SO IN DEPTH WILL REQUIRE TWO OR MORE OFFICERS DEVOTING VIRTUALLY FULL TIME FOR ABOUT A WEEK TO PREPARE REPLIES. FOR OTHERS, E.G., EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTITUDES, ARMS PURCHASES SINCE OCTOBER 73 WAR, ETC., ONLY FRAGMENTARY INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. ON STILL OTHERS, I.E., REQUEST FOR COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY CAPABILITY WITH THAT OF LIBYA, ISRAEL, SYRIA AND JORDAN (ON A THREE-YEAR COMPARATIVE
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BASIS), WE CLEARLY LACK NECESSARY DATA HERE TO

MAE DEFINITIVE JUDGEMENTS.

3. AMB IS SETTING UP TASK FORCE TO PREPARE REPLIES TO THOSE QUESTIONS FOR WHICH DATA AVAILABLE. IN VIEW ABOVE, HOWEVER, WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING DEPT'S GUIDANCE ON FOLLOWING: (A) IS DEPT ALREADY AWARE OF CODEL'S QUESTIONS, AND IF SO, PREPARING REPLIES? (B) HOW DOES DEPT WISH HANDLE QUESTIONS WHICH GO BEYOND EGYPT AND WHICH WE ARE UNABLE TO ANSWER FROM HERE? EMBASSY REPLIES WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPT FOR REVIEW AND FORWARDING AS SOON AS THEY ARE PREPARED.

4. ON ASSUMPTION THAT DEPT DOES NOT ALREADY HAVE CODEL MATHIAS' QUESTIONS, WE ARE AIR POUCHING A COPY APRIL 19.
EILTS

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